

Application No. 09/529,257  
Reply dated October 20, 2004  
Response to Office Action dated July 20, 2004

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A wet-gas desulfurizing apparatus which removes oxides of sulfur from combustion exhaust gas by scrubbing the combustion exhaust gas with an absorption liquid which contains an alkali, said apparatus comprising:

a branch pipe for circulating the absorption liquid, said branch pipe extending into a collection tank through a wall of said collection tank and having a discharge end, which discharges the circulating absorption liquid into the absorption liquid in the collection tank, and an internal diameter D; and

an air-blowing pipe for injecting air into said branch pipe, wherein an internal diameter of said air-blowing pipe is smaller than said internal diameter D of said branch pipe, said air-blowing pipe is inserted all the way into said branch pipe until the free end of said air-blowing pipe reaches the further side of said branch pipe so that a central axis of said air-blowing pipe meets with a central axis of said branch pipe [[at an]] by a perpendicular angle or some other angle, and wherein an end of said an upstream side of said air-blowing pipe is streamlined for stabilizing a cavity of the circulating absorption liquid which is

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generated at a downstream side of said air-blowing pipe and further minimizing pressure fluctuations in the absorption liquid, and the downstream side of said air-blowing pipe which opens in said branch pipe is configured as a semicircular trough facing downstream towards the collection tank so that small air bubbles are formed in the cavity and the small air bubbles are effectively dispersed into the circulating absorption liquid, and an insertion point of said air-blowing pipe into said branch pipe is located between 3D and 10D from the discharge end of said branch pipe for maximizing the efficiency of oxidizing the circulating absorption liquid.

2-3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) A wet-gas desulfurizing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said end of said air-blowing pipe inserted into [[in]] said branch pipe has an internal diameter of about 0.4D to 0.7D.

5-7. (Canceled)